

B1

3. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein acquiring comprises retrieving a data file from a data storage device.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein identifying comprises selecting at least one patient identifier to be removed from the at least one diagnostic image.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein modifying comprises obscuring an area of the at least one diagnostic image.

B2

8. (Amended) A method for selectively removing data from one or more images in a computer based system, comprising:

acquiring at least one diagnostic image;

identifying patient information that is to be excluded from the at least one diagnostic image;

modifying the at least one diagnostic image responsive to the step of identifying, wherein identified patient information is excluded from the at least one diagnostic image by applying at least one mask to at least one patient identifier of the identified patient information in one of the diagnostic image and a plurality of frames comprising an image loop; and

exporting the at least one modified diagnostic image over a data network.

9. (Amended) A method for selectively removing data from one or more images in a computer based system, comprising:

acquiring at least one diagnostic image;

identifying patient information that is to be excluded from the at least one diagnostic image;

modifying the at least one diagnostic image responsive to the step of identifying, wherein identified patient information is excluded from the at least one diagnostic image by superimposing a plurality of masks over a respective instance of at least one patient identifier of the identified patient information in a multiple image display format; and exporting the at least one modified diagnostic image over a data network.

B2

11. (Amended) The system of claim 17, further comprising:

means for communicating the at least one diagnostic image to at least one device on a network

B3

12. (Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the retrieving means comprises a computer based diagnostic image acquisition system.

13. (Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the retrieving means comprises a computing device in association with a network.

14. (Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the identifying means comprises an image enhancer.

17. (Amended) A computer based diagnostic image enhancement system, comprising:

B4

means for retrieving a digital representation of at least one diagnostic image;
means for identifying at least one patient identifier reflective of the subject of an underlying diagnostic study that is not intended for association with the at least one diagnostic image; and

means for selectively obscuring the at least one patient identifier responsive to the identifying means by applying at least one mask to the at least one patient identifier in one of the diagnostic image and a plurality of frames comprising an image loop.

18. (Amended) A computer based diagnostic image enhancement system, comprising:

means for retrieving a digital representation of at least one diagnostic image;
means for identifying at least one patient identifier reflective of the subject of an underlying diagnostic study that is not intended for association with the at least one diagnostic image; and

means for selectively obscuring the at least one patient identifier responsive to the identifying means by superimposing a plurality of masks over a respective instance of the at least one patient identifier in a multiple image display format.

21. (Amended) An interactive diagnostic image enhancer, comprising:
an image manager configured to receive a digital representation of a diagnostic image and at least one patient identifier;

a user interface coupled to the image manager, operable to receive a plurality of commands from an operator via at least one input device, configured to identify at least

one patient identification parameter that is not desired for association with the diagnostic image, wherein the user interface generates at least one command responsive to the identified patient parameter; and

an image editor coupled to the image manager and the user interface, configured to receive the at least one command, wherein the image editor obscures the at least one patient parameter by applying at least one mask to the at least one patient identifier in one of the diagnostic image and a plurality of frames comprising an image loop.

35 22. (Amended) An interactive diagnostic image enhancer, comprising:

an image manager configured to receive a digital representation of a diagnostic image and at least one patient identifier;

a user interface coupled to the image manager, operable to receive a plurality of commands from an operator via at least one input device, configured to identify at least one patient identification parameter that is not desired for association with the diagnostic image, wherein the user interface generates at least one command responsive to the identified patient parameter; and

an image editor coupled to the image manager and the user interface, configured to receive the at least one command, wherein the image editor obscures the at least one patient parameter by superimposing a plurality of masks over a respective instance of the at least one patient identifier in a multiple image display format.

23. (Amended) A computer readable medium having a computer program, comprising:

a first logic for identifying at least one patient identifier related to a patient that is the subject of a medical diagnostic exam;

a second logic for obtaining an input reflective of an operator's desire whether to associate the at least one patient identifier with at least one image acquired during the medical diagnostic exam; and

a third logic for generating the at least one image with the at least one patient identifier obscured in response to the second logic by applying at least one mask to the at least one patient identifier in a plurality of frames comprising an image loop.

Q5